"The most child friendly museum we have ever visited, the children really enjoyed themselves."

Clavering Primary School

New Saxon and Norman Gallery at Colchester Castle now open.

Interactive, exciting and dramatic new experience for visitors to enjoy learning about our Saxon and Norman past in Colchester.

Colchester Museums

Schools Service

www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

COLCHESTER

RENAISSANCE EAST OF ENGLAND museums for changing lives

Supported by MLA Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

department for education and skills

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Welcome to Colchester Museums' schools service. Last year over 24,000 students took part in the range of activities that we offer from building a Roman villa to studying spiders using a video microscope!

This booklet shows you the different sessions and resources we offer, all of which support the National Curriculum. All our sessions are flexible and can be tailored to meet the needs of your group.

Please contact us with any queries or suggestions for new sessions that you would like us to develop.

We look forward to seeing you in our museums.

Key to Symbols

- **Lunch room available**
- **Coach parties welcome**
- **Access information available**
- **Adapted toilets**
- **Disabled access**
- **All year round weather attraction**
- **Toilets**
- **Lift**
- **Playground**
- **Gift Shop**
- **Picnic area**

INFORMATION AND BOOKING LINE:

01206 282937

Colchester Museums, Museum Resource Centre, 14 Ryegate Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1YG

For more information about Colchester Museums visit:

www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

About Colchester's Museums

Colchester Castle Museum

A visit to Colchester Castle Museum takes you through 2000 years of some of the most important events in British history. Once capital of Roman Britain, Colchester has experienced devastation by Boudica, invasion by the Normans and siege warfare during the English Civil War.
The Castle is the largest keep ever built by the Normans. It was constructed on the foundations of the Roman Temple of Claudius, which can still be seen today. Today, it displays a internationally important Roman and Iron Age British (Celtic) collection, as well as the history of Colchester through to the end of the English Civil War.

Hollytrees Museum

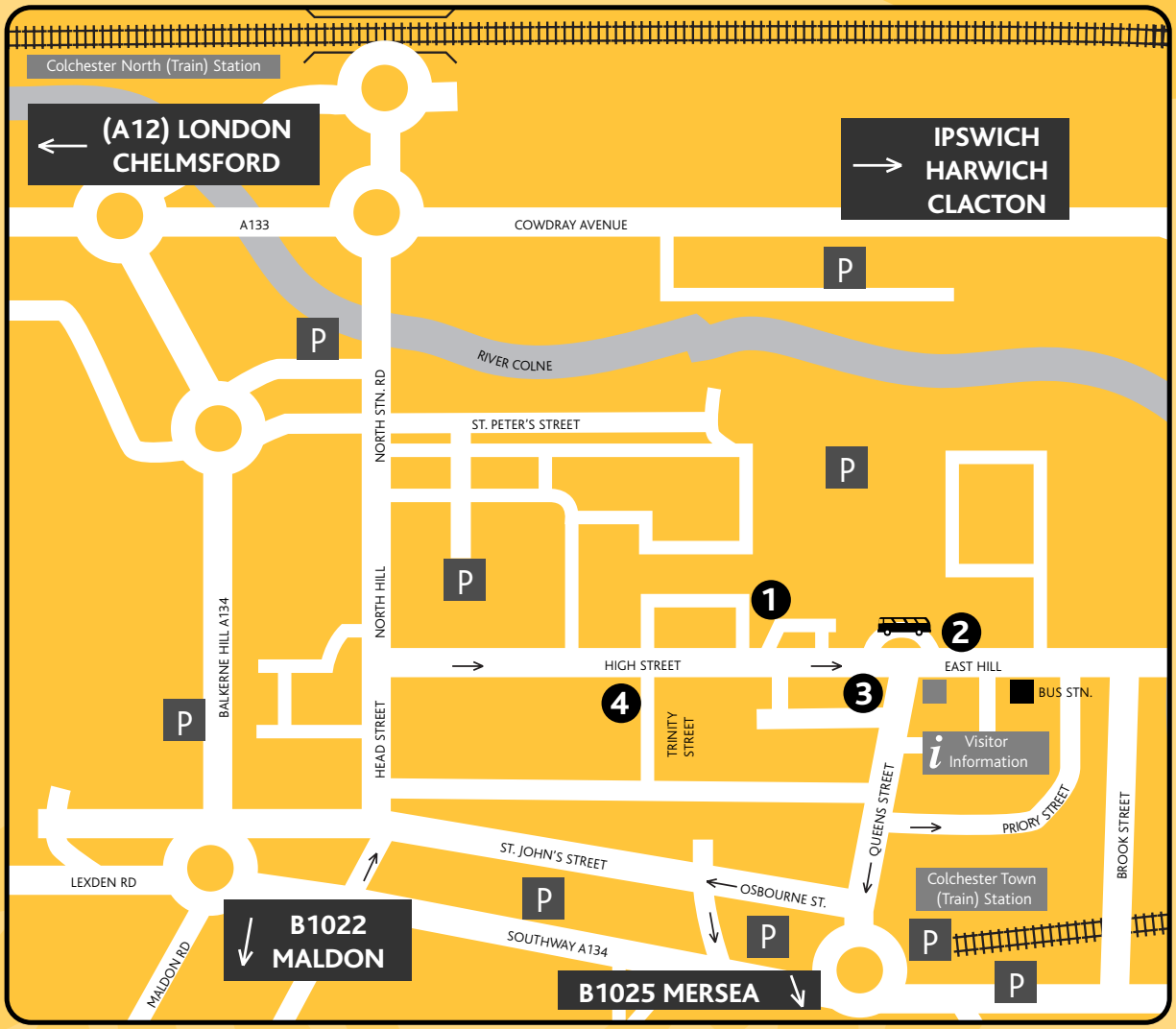
Hollytrees was built in 1718 for Elizabeth Cornelisen and has been home to some of the wealthiest families in Colchester. It became a museum in 1929 and was redisplayed in 2001 with wonderful new hands-on activities to show what home life was like in Colchester over the last 300 years. This vibrant museum highlights home and domestic life, Victorian life and toys.

Natural History Museum

Experience the saltmarsh atmosphere, hear the evocative calls of the Redshank, marvel at migration and see Brent Geese feeding along the coast! With its many hands-on displays and events looking at the natural history of north east Essex, this museum is an ideal place to visit for a children's 'First Museum visit'.

Tymperleys Clock Museum

This museum is home to a fine display of Colchester-made clocks and watches from the outstanding Mason collection. It is situated in a beautifully restored 15th century timber-framed house with a medieval style herb garden in its grounds.



Access

All museums have full wheelchair access except for visits to the Roman vaults and the roof at the Castle Museum–alternative tours can be organised to accommodate this. Handling objects are available for visually impaired students and those with learning disabilities. Subtitling is available for most of the audiovisuals in Hollytrees and the Castle Museum.

Key

1. Castle Museum
2. Hollytrees Museum
3. Natural History Museum
4. Tymperleys Museum

Parking

There is a drop-off point for coaches in Cowdray Crescent, which is convenient for all the museums. Coaches can then lay-over in the bus station.

Castles as Homes

QCA History scheme of work

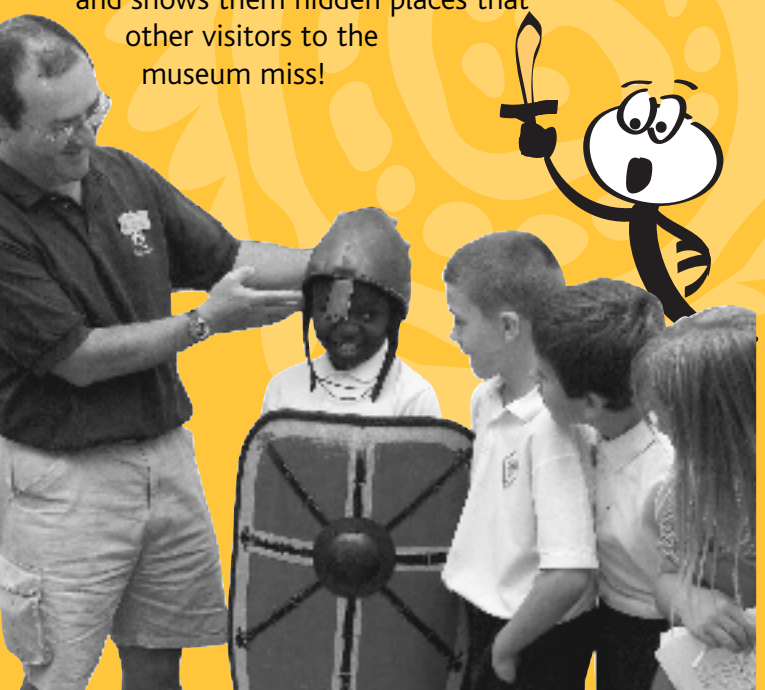
Key Stage One

Unit 2:
What were homes like a long time ago?

Venue:
Colchester Castle Museum

Appropriate galleries
For this visit, the most appropriate resource is the building itself: looking at the features of the Castle for defence and as a home, both inside and outside. We now have a new Norman and Saxon gallery which will compliment this scheme of work. Pupils can experience the new interactive, exciting and dramatic interpretation of the coming of the Normans. Their impact on the Saxon way of life, the differences in lifestyle, hierarchy in society and their varied industries. Investigate the building of Colchester Castle high-lighting the Norman construction and its many interesting features.

Organisation of your visit
We take groups as young as 4 years old who are either studying Castles or Homes as a topic. An Education Assistant leads the group up the Great Staircase; the largest Norman staircase in Europe. The tour continues onto the roof of the Castle with its views of Colchester and surrounding countryside and shows them hidden places that other visitors to the museum miss!



Colchester Castle in Medieval Times

QCA History scheme of work

Key Stage Three

Unit Two:
How did the medieval monarchs keep control

Venue:
Colchester Castle Museum

Appropriate galleries
Colchester Castle is the largest Norman keep ever built and retains many of the features of a traditional Castle. It is therefore an ideal place to visit to see how Colchester developed after the Norman Conquest and what the Castle would have been like when it was first built.

New Norman and Saxon gallery open.

Organisation of your visit
45-minute tour of the Castle led by museum staff, showing features such as the Great Staircase and Castle roof.

Activity sheets looking at the exterior of the building are included in the package.

Toys/homes
at Hollytrees Museum

QCA History scheme of work

Key Stage One:

Unit 1:
How are our toys different from those in the past?

Unit 2:
How are our homes different from those in the past?

Venue: Hollytrees Museum

You can choose between toys or homes for this session or a mixture of both.

Appropriate Galleries
Hollytrees Museum shows what home life would have been like in Colchester over the last 300 years. It is ideal for young children and its galleries include *'Running the Home'* and *'Childhood'* where children can play with a variety of old toys.

All our schools' sessions are based around a model of Hollytrees House in 1881. The rooms can be taken out, so that everyone gets a bird's eye view of what home life would have been like for a rich Victorian family.

All pupils have the opportunity to dress up in Victorian costumes, provided by the museum. Will they be transformed into a poor child or into a rich child?

We also offer schools a choice of other activities to complement the hands-on session. They can choose from a story-based or craft-based activity. This part of the day is run by leaders of the groups, who use the supporting information that we supply.

Organisation of your Visit
During the day, you have the opportunity to do the following:

1. Session led by museum staff in which pupils:
   - Explore the dolls' house of Hollytrees
   - Compare old and new household objects
   - Play with toys from the past
2. Visit the galleries
3. Literacy activity/craft activity

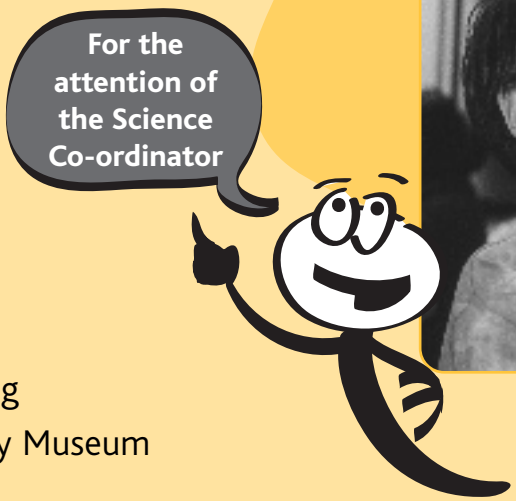
Life & Living Processes
at the Natural History Museum

QCA Science scheme of work

Key Stage One:
- Plants and animals in the local environment
- Variation

Key Stage Two:
- Habitats
- Life Cycles
- Moving and Growing

Venue: Natural History Museum



Appropriate galleries
The museum displays the natural habitats of Essex and explores the variety of animal and plant life found in them. It is targeted at family and school audiences with many hands-on exhibits.

Organisation of your Visit
We offer a two-hour session led by museum staff in which your group has the opportunity to complete four activities that target the *Life Processes* and *Living Things* strand of the Science Curriculum. Unlike other natural history centres, we are indoors and so available all year round.

Resources
All groups handle animal specimens and use a video microscope enabling them to zoom in and look closely at the animals on a television screen. Activity sheets are used which develop scientific recording skills.

Key Stage One
The four activities look at:
- Local Environments
- Life Cycles
- Sorting
- Exploring Minibeasts

Key Stage Two
You choose four activities from the following list:
- Adaptation to Habitats
- Classification
- Life Cycles
- Predator and Prey
- Food Chains
- Exploring Minibeasts

Ro

QCA History scheme of work

Key Stage Two:
A Roman Case Study

Unit 6:
Why have people invaded and settled in Britain in the past?

Venue:
Colchester Castle Museum

Age group:
Key Stage Two, can be adapted for other Key Stages

Appropriate galleries
Colchester was the first capital of Roman Britain and our wide-ranging collections reflect its prosperity during the Roman period. The Castle houses collections of internationally important Iron Age and Roman artefacts that are displayed in an easy-to-follow style, with many hands-on activities.

Appropriate galleries include:
Life in Celtic Britain, Roman Invasion, Building of the Roman Town, Roman Homes, Roman Beliefs. Hands-on activities include: try on a Roman helmet and chain mail, coin brass rubbings, handling real Roman pottery.

Sessions
We offer three different visits to the Castle Museum:

Package A:
Do-it-Yourself visit
This service is aimed at teachers who would prefer to structure their own visit, and gives admission to the galleries.

Package B:
Go underground into the foundations of the Roman temple
With this package you receive a timetable for the day which includes a story tour of the Roman vaults underneath the Castle Museum. You are led by an Education Assistant who involves the pupils in finding out about the Iron Age settlements in this area, the Roman invasion and the Boudican revolt.

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Package C:
Go underground into the foundations of the Roman Temple plus build a Roman Villa and Iron Age Roundhouse
With this package, you not only go on the story tour in the Roman vaults, but you are also booked into our Activity Room for an hour. We have a model Roman villa and Iron Age roundhouse that the pupils build, as well as hands-on archaeological activities. This session is led by the teachers themselves and as part of the package, we run FREE training sessions before your visit that show you how to run this session and also the best ways to organise your visit around the galleries.

Secondary Schools
With advance booking only, you can listen to a talk from a Museum expert about the Roman settlements in Colchester.

Supporting resources: Loan Boxes
We also have loan boxes containing some original Roman artefacts that you can hire for a term: see page 11 for information. Contact the Information & Bookings Officer on 01206 282937 for details or e-mail on bookings.information@colchester.gov. uk

Victorian Lives at Hollytrees Museum

QCA History schemes of work

Key Stage Two:

Unit 18:
What was it like to live here in the past?

Unit 11:
What was it like for children living in Victorian Britain?

Venue: Hollytrees Museum

Appropriate Galleries

Hollytrees Museum shows what home life would have been like in Colchester over the last 300 years. It is ideal for young children and its galleries include *Running the Home* and *Childhood* where children can play with a variety of old toys.

All our schools' sessions are based around a model of Hollytrees House in 1881 with rooms that can be taken out so that everyone gets a bird's eye view of what home life would have been like for a rich Victorian family.

All pupils have the opportunity to dress up in Victorian costumes, provided by the museum. Will they be transformed into a poor child or into a rich child?

We also offer schools a choice of other activities to complement the hands-on session. They can choose from a story-based or craft-based activity. This part of the day is run by leaders of the groups, who use the supporting information that we supply.

Organisation of your Visit

Find out what life was like in Hollytrees in 1881. Investigate the lives of both the servants and the family who lived in the house.

During the day, you have the opportunity to do the following:

1. Session led by museum staff in which pupils:
   - Explore the dolls' house of Hollytrees
   - Analyse the census form for Hollytrees in 1881
   - Handle Victorian household objects
   - Handle replica Victorian costume
2. Visit the galleries
3. Literacy activity/craft activity

Loans service

Historical Loan Boxes

Help bring history alive in your classroom by introducing real artefacts from the past.

Children can act as detectives, asking questions to find out what the objects tell us about life in the past.

- Who would have used it?
- How was it made?
- Do we use something similar today?
- What was it used for?

How to Hire a Box

Historical and sensory loan boxes
Length of Hire: one term
Cost of Hire: £20.00
plus £10 refundable deposit

Boxes need to be collected from and returned to Colchester Castle Museum. To book a box or for more details, please contact the Information & Bookings Officer on 01206 282937. Or email bookings.information@colchester.gov.uk

Topics

We have loan boxes with a mixture of real and replica household objects from the following topics:

- Ancient Egypt
- Ancient Greece
- Roman
- Tudor and Stuart
- Victorian Clothing
- Victorian Childhood
- Victorian Kitchen
- Siege of Colchester (17th century)
- World War Two

In the boxes you will find a range of objects with information notes about them. Some boxes such as the Roman or Siege of Colchester even have replica clothing in them.

Sensory Loan Boxes

We have also developed boxes of archaeological artefacts and activities to support groups or individuals with visual, hearing or learning disabilities. Groups have the opportunity to:

- Smell Roman herbs
- Feel original Roman pottery
- Investigate Celtic tools

The sensory loan boxes can also be booked to use during your visit to the Castle Museum, free of charge if they are available.

Oral History Tape Recorders

Running oral history projects is a great way to fulfil your 'Speaking and Listening' strategy. We are able to offer you three sets of recording equipment that you can use to record pupil interviews. This recording equipment includes:

- Marantz Tape Recorder
- Two Microphones
- Cassettes
- Headphones

Training on how to use this equipment is given when you hire the equipment.
Length of Hire: Half term period
Cost of Hire: Free

How to book

To book a visit to any of Colchester's museums, please contact:

Information and Bookings Officer
telephone: 01206 282937
e-mail: bookings.information@colchester.gov.uk

Details to consider on booking:

- Preferred dates for visit
- Number of children in your group
- Age of children
- The topic you are studying
- Your ideal arrival and departure times
- Any special requirements

Once you have booked a visit, you will be sent a booking form and timetable for your visit. Supporting materials for visits to the Castle Museum can be downloaded from our website:

www.colchestermuseums.org.uk

We book up four to six months in advance at the Castle Museum so allow plenty of planning time for your visit.

Please phone 01206 282937 for current prices or check out: www.colchestermuseums.org.uk